CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

CRYPTO

Crypto: Hidden or Secret, from the Greek kruptos meaning hidden

"As in any age or with any subject - when a skilled storyteller begins to play with such ideas, and when members of his audience respond, repeat the stories, and begin to add their own flourishes, then legends begin to form and circulate"

Jan Harold Brunvand The Vanishing Hitchhiker: American Urban Legends & Their Meanings

Welcome Sign to Port Henry, New York (USA)
Home of Champ from Lake Champlain
Picture by Craig Heinselman, November 1998

Editors Statement:

I sit here writing this in a ritual manner. Every issue thus far has been concluded with this one page statement. A reflection on the past, and on the future. The statement is always written on the last Sunday of a month, and this is no exception with it now being Sunday, March 28, 1999. The country classics are on the radio broadcasting out of Boston, and the local paper is on the foldout table by the desk next to a cup of coffee.

I explain this ritual as a way of explanation. The various letters and communications I have received over the last six months or so have often asked about why I have done this publication, and how it is done. That is a difficult question to answer, but the simple reply is that it is a labor of love. A love of the mystery, a love of research and a love of the creatures that inhabit this planet with us.

The other question about how this is done is more of a technical question. It is not professionally done, rather all graphics and text is manually typed in and then the finished version is printed out on a ink jet printer. The entire format is done within Microsoft Word on a slow (but usable) Pentium 120 computer with 32 MB of RAM. The printer used is a HP Deskjet 820Cse and an older Logitech PageScan Pro is used as a scanner. The paper, starting with this issue, is a heavy stock paper of 67-lb. (147 g/m^2) weight. It has been chosen due to its heavy features that allow a longer durability to the reading, as well as the maintaining of the graphic and textual integrity.

The other question asked is why is there no subscription fee? That again is a difficult question to formulate into words, but I will attempt it now. Today, many people cannot afford the privilege of receiving a newsletter or magazine, as the money is needed to feed a family and put a shelter over their heads. But, these same people should not be exiled from receiving a publication since they cannot afford to pay for it. That is the reason why there is no fee attached to receiving this publication. It is not some self-righteous attitude, as it is realized that other publications are better in quality and have a larger reader base and thus need to charge a fee in order to maintain these crucial elements.

Another question posed has been why not put out an issue every other month? This would be nice to do, and perhaps some day. But two elements currently restrict this, time and money. A full time job takes up most of the week, and at times the weekend. There are also several side projects being worked on that take up time. It is possible to go to a six time a year publication, but the quality would suffer and this is not acceptable. *CRYPTO* is viewed as a mirror reflection of myself, and I cannot let it go without knowing everything possible has been done to allow it to be the best it can be.

Certain changes have been made to this issue, most are subtle. A new rating system has been added to the media reviews. More photographs or drawings have been included. And the new media of printing has been added. These were all added due to the comments by others, as a way of showing that your comments and suggestions have not been for nothing. Included as well is a photocopied brochure. This is a brochure produced by The Sierra Club and written by Chris Bolgiano. It is a nice little item dealing with cougars in the Appalachian Mountains, and may be freely reprinted as it is not copyrighted.

I wish you all the best, and I thank you all for making *CRYPTO* a personal success.

Craig Heinselman
Editor / Publisher

1999 CRYPTO

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

Table of Content:

Page 1	Cover Page	
Page 2	Editors Statement	
Page 3	Table of Contents Standard Disclaimer	
Page 4	How the Lion Got His Spots	by Craig Heinselman
Page 9	Po'o-uli , Gone the Way of the Dodo	by Craig Heinselman
Page 12	News Notes	
Page 13	Out of the Shadows	by Peter V. O'Shea
Page 14	News Notes	
Page 15	The Media and Bigfoot	by Craig Heinselman
Page 17	Sightings at Loch Ness in 1998	Courtesy of Gary Campbell
Page 18	News Notes	
Page 19	A Report on the 11th Annual Ohio Bigfoot Conference	
Page 20	Cryptofiction: Tarzan and the Abominable Snowman (Barton Werper)	
Page 23	News Notes	
Page 24	Media Reviews	
Page 30	Classifieds & Miscellany	

This publication is published at a minimum of four (4) times per year. The subscription costs are free currently. Contributions to lessen overhead costs are appreciated, but not required, contributions are not tax deductible. Any contribution should be made payable to Craig Heinselman and in U.S. funds. Submissions are welcome, due to the nature of this publication no fees can be paid (other retributions can be made). Contact the editor for submission guidelines. This publication is copyrighted per Copyright Law of the United States of America, Title 17 of the United States Code. Reproduction is allowed as long as it meets the provisions of USC Title 17 § 107. Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use, these being "... for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright." Anyone wishing to place an add or classified please contact the editor (organizations and other publications listed for free, fees for commercial usage). Send all correspondence to the following address or e-mail: cheinselman@msn.com

CRYPTO
c/o Craig Heinselman
135 Elm St, Apt. 81
Milford, NH 03055 USA
(603) 673-1462

1999 CRYPTO

How the Lion Got His Spots

By: Craig Heinselman

"Then the Ethiopian put his five fingers close together (there was plenty of black left on his new skin still) and pressed them all over the Leopard, and wherever the five fingers touched they left five little black marks, all close together. You can see them on any Leopard's skin you like, Best Beloved. Sometimes the fingers slipped and the marks got a little blurred; but if you look closely at any Leopard now you will see that there are always five spots -- off five fat black finger-tips." ***From Rudyard Kipling's "How the Leopard Got His Spots"***

Onza, King Cheetah, Eastern Panther, Thylacoleo carnifex, these are all names of enigmatic felines (or feline like animals) from across the globe. They are not alone, the list is staggering of mysterious cats, but amongst them are a few rare examples where physical proof possibly exists that adds credence to local legends and travelers tails. The marozi is one such rare example, the Spotted Lion of Africa.

The marozi is little remembered today, and sadly may no longer even exist as the reports have for the most part stopped during the last 40 years. The brunt of the evidence for the once existence of this lion starts in 1931. In that year a farmer in the Aberdare Mountain area of Kenya shot two small lions at an elevation of around 10,000 feet. These specimens where eventually mounted as trophies, and caught the attention of the Game Department. Upon further examination by officials at the Game Department in Nairobi the skins became a conundrum. As the skins where from a male and a female of pubescent age, but the skins where spotted something that only appears in lions at an early age. With those two skins, the chronicle of the marozi begins.

Kenneth Gandar Dower steps into the picture. A well-to-do adventurer he wished to see Africa's wildlife with his own eyes:

" Mine was not a promising situation when I found myself stranded in Nairobi. My only assets were a love of Rider Haggard and a vague half-knowledge of what I wished to do. I wanted to see big game in their natural surroundings, to take their photographs, and, once that was done, to fit myself to go alone into the great forests. I wanted to discover and to explore. Yet I could not speak Swahili. I had no fiends in Kenya. I had scarcely taken a still photograph (that had come out) or fired a rifle (except upon a range). My riding was limited to ten lessons, taken seventeen years previously when I was nine, on a horse which would barely canter. My shy suggestions of the possibilities of new animals brought only rather scornful jokes about the Naivasha Sea Serpent and the Nandi Bear." [1]

And so at the age of 26 Kenneth Dower sets forth. Not immediately to find a mystery animal, but a animals and nature in general. He hooks up with a farmer / guide / hunter named Raymond Hook, who becomes vital in the eventual search for the spotted lion. Much of Dower's expeditions are written about in his 1937 The Spotted Lion, although the title itself is misleading. He touches on during his exploration and expeditions such items as the Nandi Bear, discovered species, black lynxes as well as the marozi. Three months after arriving in Africa Dower set off in search of the legendary animal he had heard of, and that his now friend Raymond Hook had said was "*Rubbish*". But, the questions remain as to where to search, what to search for and what to do if one is ever found:

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

" This opportunity, given so undeservedly to a novice, who three months ago had never been to Africa or really ridden a horse or fired a rifle at a living thing, was almost too great a responsibility to bear. I felt small. Even with Raymond's help, how could I hope to find this rare animal, the very existence of which had for so long been unsuspected, in 2000 square miles of wilderness, through which we could hardly travel, to find it and track it down, and shoot it, or photograph it and capture it alive?" [1]

A burden of proof to be found. The evidence collected during this expedition was circumstantial, a spoor found along side a series of tracks taken to be that of a marozi. For the series of tracks from two animals was taken to be a male and a female. The smaller set of tracks to be female, the larger ones male. The larger track being bigger than a leopards, but smaller than a lions. As the animals where following a trail of buffalo it is assumed that they where hunting, and hence not cubs, but rather a hunting pair of lions. And again at a latter time at an elevation of 12, 500 feet a track from a lion was found, again taken to be from the spotted variety due to the location. And at an even latter date the part missed the possibility of seeing one of these animals by a matter of a single day.

The expedition had failed in finding conclusive proof of the marozi, but the effect of the search did not fail. Dower is the single person to push the marozi to the attention of the world through the publication of articles in *The Field* and through his book, as well as the collection of anecdotal accountings from the natives. In these accountings there is a distinct separation among the people of the area, without having seen the specimen's skin that Trent had shot, of the normal lion and the spotted lion, simba and marozi.

From his writings Dower's spotted lion became well known and for years after the first article in 1935 sporadic accounts where published in *The Field*. With the last in 1948 by a J.R.T. Pollard, also a friend of Raymond Hook. In this letter Pollard emphasizes that Hook believed the possibility was there that could be a spotted variety of lion, but that the evidence was not sufficient to prove it. Which is similar to what Dower had written about 11 years prior in which he quotes Hook as saying the marozi stories where *"Rubbish"*.

Yet, some of the other reports from *The Field* are as interesting. For instance also in 1948 an entry by G. Hamilton - Snowball recalls learning of the marozi prior to Dower's expedition. He even may have spotted a pair of these animals at an elevation of 11,500 feet along the Kinangop Plateau. These animals retreated prior to his being able to shoot one, but the natives with him where heard to be whispering the word marozi amongst themselves at the sight of these animals.

Still more repor4s where around prior to the first article by Dower. Colonel Richard Meinertzhagan had reportedly heard the name marozi prior to 1908. And Captain R.E. Dent, a game warden, reportedly spotted four of these animals at an elevation around 10,000 feet in 1931. And a specimen may have been killed in a trap during this time as well. Undeniably something was being seen in the Aberdare Mountains earlier this century. The question remains what was it that was being seen?

Theories as the origin have been mixed. The main ones have been that the marozi is a natural crossbreed of a leopard and a lion, that the animals seen where abhorrent specimens of lion, that the natives made up the stories to please the explorers, and that the animals seen are spotted due to tricks of light. It is possible that some of the explanations can account for some of the sightings and reports, but it is doubtful that they can explain all sightings away.

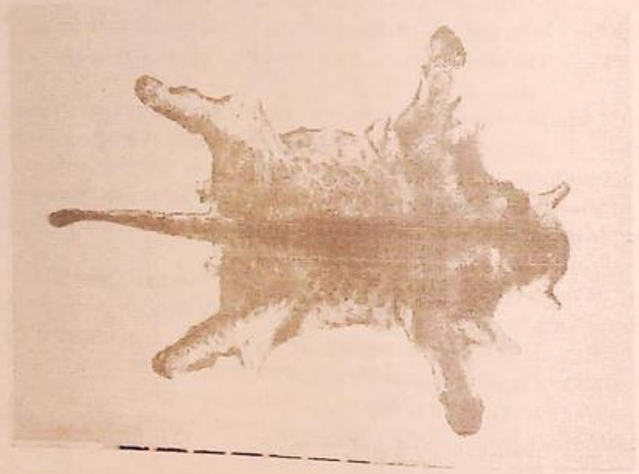
If these animals where deliberate hoaxes by the natives, then why would they whisper among themselves, probably unaware they where being overheard, that the animals seen where marozi. The classic example of this would be the report by G. Hamilton-Snowball, wherein the natives whispered the name while he was trying to get his rifle to shoot one. There was a single expedition, split into several smaller ones but encompassing one large expedition only, run by Kenneth Dower. In essence there was no financial gain to be made by creating this legendary animal, as no future expeditions ever searched for the animal.

Biologically speaking the hybrid theory also is flawed. Although crossbreeds to occur, they are in captivity and the offspring are traditionally sterile. In the wild a crossbreeding between species would be especially rare and unlikely, although genetically possible. The fact remains that species are isolated, and remain so due to behavioral differences and varied geographies that act as barriers to inhibit crossbreeding.

There are cases of leopons (lion and leopard mix) and other feline mixes, like ligers (lion and tiger mix). And these leopons do express the characteristics of the marozi, especially the intermediate size and spotting. But, thus far this phenomenon has only occurred in controlled environments and not in the wild. To have a population of leopons in the wild would require successful natural crossbreeding and then fertile offspring that mate and produce other fertile offspring. Each becomes statistically narrower in possibility as the reproductive cycle continues, in this case at least 40 years worth of reports and thus more than one generation of animals.

The other possibility, aside from a separate species of lion, is that of abhorrent specimens of lion. This is not a new occurrence, and has taken place with the birth of white lions from normal lions. The first authenticated reports of the white lions come from Timbavati Nature Reserve (near Kruger National Park). Where in 1975[2] the mating of normal lions was recorded, and the birth of two white lions documented (named Temba and Tombi). These where not albino specimens, rather white lions with lighter eyes, but otherwise normal animals. Other incidents of abhorrent specimens of felines are documented such as the white tiger and even the king cheetah. So, the possibility of this being an explanation for the marozi is there and with the proper mixing of dormant genes and some inbreeding then an explanation could arise, however, the geographic distribution of the traditional lion does not foster this scenario. As these marozis are reported from high wooded country, and not the plains.

One is then left with the unknown question of what is the marozi? If the anecdotal reports stood alone then the animal may be viewed as a curious account in natural history, however that is not the case here. The skin of one of Michael Trent's lions shot in 1931 still exists along with a possible skull at the Natural History Museum in London.



Specimen of Possible Spotted Lion Retained at the Natural History Museum in London
Image taken from Kenneth Gandar Dower's The Spotted Lion, used under provisions of USC Title 17 § 107

Few possible specimens of mystery animals exist. And some, as in the case of the possible onza specimen killed in 1986 in Sierra Madre, Mexico, turn out to be of a known species that may be an adaptive specimen to a particular environment[3]. The Trent skin however, may be something altogether different and establish that there may have once existed a species of lion that exhibited a spotted coat. However, little examination of this skin and the possible skull from Trent has occurred.

R.I. Pocock of the Natural History Museum in London examined the specimens prior to 1937. His is apparently the last full examination of these specimens. His findings are as follows:

" It is a male, measuring approximately: - head and body 5ft. 10½ in., tail, without terminal hairs of the tuft, 2 ft. 9 in., making a total of about 8 ft. 8 in. This is of course small for adult East African lions, of which the dressed skins may surpass 10 ft. over all. From its size I guessed it to be about three years old, a year or more short of full size.

There is nothing particularly noticeable in its mane, which is small and, except on the cheeks, consists of a mixture of tawny, grey and black hairs, the longest up to about 5 in. in length.

... the peculiarity of the skin lies in the distinctness of the pattern of spots, consisting of large "jaguarine" rosettes arranged in obliquely vertical lines and extending over the flanks, shoulders and thighs up to the darker spinal area where they disappear. They are irregular in size and shape, the largest measuring 85 by 45 or 65 by 65 mm. In diameter. Their general hue is pale greyish-brown, with slightly darkened centres, but at the periphery they are thrown into relief by the paler tint of the spaces between them. On the pale cream-buff belly, the solid richer buff spots stand out tolerably clearly. The legs are covered with solid spots, more distinct than the rosettes of the flanks, and on the hind legs they are more scattered and a deeper, more smoky grey tint than on the fore legs.

The skulls of the pair of spotted lions secured by Mr. Trent were not preserved when the animals were skinned; but a skull presumed to belong to one of them, with all the teeth and the lower jaw missing, was subsequently picked up near the spot and submitted to me with the skin. It is a young skull with all the sutures open, showing it had not attained full size and may well be the estimated age of the skin. It is not sufficiently developed to be sexed with certainty ... The skull in question may prove to be that of a slightly dwarfed lion with the teeth and skull reduced to about the size of those of an ordinary lioness."[1]

According to Daphne Hills of the Natural History Museum in London others have evaluated the specimens over the years, but that there is little to add to Pocock's evaluation. However, there may still be a glimmer of possibility in that Hills has also stated:

"It is probable that the specimen will be included in any future DNA studies...".[4]

Whether these studies are ever conducted remains to be seen, but the specimens are still present in 1999 in the museum collection.

What is known thus is that the Aberdare's spotted lion is a small lion intermediate in size between a plains lion and a leopard. They travel in groupings of two and in at least one incident four where seen together. They exhibit a striking spotted appearance into adult hood. The males lack a traditional mane, and if present it is minimal at most. The geographic distribution in the Aberdares is in the higher elevations of the mountains within the treelines. The natives also firmly establish that there is a difference between the two lions, hence two different names simba and marozi.

The enigma of the spotted lion has not been answered, the more one looks the more questions arise. However, the one fact that stands out is the 1940's there have been no reports from the Aberdare Mountain area. A disturbing fact that may answer the enigma once and for all, the spotted lion is gone now, at least in that area. But, other locations in Africa have similar reports of smallish lions with spotted coats. So hope may still remain that the ikimizi from Rwanda, abasambo in Ethiopia, kitalargo in Uganda, and so forth. [4]

These scattered reports from the continent also may add fire to the debate that the marozi was a crossbreed or an abhorrent representative. As, if one population exists then the possibility of an biological mixing is possible (although unlikely), however if scattered reports separated by hundreds or thousands of miles report a similar animal, then there may well be a distinct mountain species of lion still existing. Perhaps one day another intrepid explorer, like Kenneth Gandar Dower, may stumble upon a pocket of spotted lion reports and once and for all squash the question of their reality into the current times.

References:

Alberton, David, Wild Cats of the World, Blandford, London (UK), 1998
Bille, Matthew A., Rumores of Existence, Hancock House, Surry (BC, Canada), 1995
Bottriel, Lena Godsall, King Cheetah, E.J. Brill, Leiden (Netherlands), 1987
Carmony, Neil B., Onza! The Hunt for a Legendary Cat, High-Lonesome Books, Silver City (NM, USA), 1995
Dower, Kenneth Gandar, The Spotted Lion, Little, Brown and Company, Boston (MA, USA), 1937 [1]
Downes, Jonathan , Between the Lions, *Animals & Men Issue 12*
Dratch, Peter, Roslund, Wendy, Martenson, Janice, Culver, Melanie, O'Brien, Stephen, Molecular Genetic Identification of a Mexican Onza Specimen as a Puma (*Puma concolor*), *Cryptozoology*, Volume 12, 1993-1996 [3]
Heuvelmans, Bernard, On the Track of Unknown Animals 3rd Edition, Kegan Paul International, London (UK), 1995
Hills, Daphne, Personal Communication January 13, 1999 [4]
Kipling, Rudyard, Just So Stories, Lancer Books Edition, New York (NY, USA), 1968 (originally published 1902)
Marshall, Robert E., The Onza, Exposition Press, New York (NY, USA), 1961
McBride, Chris, The White Lions of Timbavati, Paddington Press, Ltd., New York (NY, USA), 1977 [2]
Naish, Darren , Lost Lion Renaissance, *Animals & Men Issue 12*
Nowak, Ronald M., Walker's Mammals of the World 5th Edition Volume I and II, The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore (Maryland, USA), 1991
Patterson, Lieutenant-Colonel J.H., The Man-Eating Lions of Tsavo, *The Field Museum Zoological Leaflets No. 7*, , 1926
Schaller, George B., The Serengeti Lion, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago (IL, USA), 1976
Shuker, Karl P.N., Mystery Cats of the World, Robert Hale, London (UK), 1989 [5]
Shuker, Karl P.N., African Mystery Cats, *Cat World*, No. 213, November 1995
Shuker, Karl P.N., Lion Spotting, *All About Cats*, November/December 1998
Turner, Alan, The Big Cats and Their Fossil Relatives, Columbia University Press, New York (NY, USA), 1997

Additional notes:

Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, who reportedly heard the name marozi prior to 1908, is responsible for bringing the giant forest hog to the worlds note in 1904. His name hence has become part of the taxonomic name for this animal, *Hylochoerus meinertzageni*. Not only was this a new genus, but also acted as substantiation to reports dating back into the late 1600's of a large hog living in Africa. This is a formidable animal that can grow in excess of seven feet and length.

Po'ouli , Gone the Way of the Dodo

By: Craig Heinselman

In a previous issue of *CRYPTO* (Volume 1 No. 2, December 1998) there was an article dealing with the South Island kokako (*Callaeus cinera cinera*), in that article a brief mention was made of another remarkable bird, the po'ouli (*Melamprosops phaeosoma*) from Hawaii. This species deserves special attention, as it may well be the rarest bird on Earth, and quite possibly on the verge of extinction, gone the way of the Dodo.

The po'ouli (named by M. Kawena Pukui, and meaning "black faced"), a drab colored Hawaiian honeycreeper, was discovered in the forest area of the Haleakala Volcano on Maui Island of the Hawaiin Islands. It's discoverers were two college students on an expedition from the University of Hawaii, James D. Jacobi and Tonnie L.C. Casey. This was in 1973, now some fifteen odd years latter little information has been gathered on its biology.

Historically the po'ouli was isolated to this one island in the Hawaiin chain. Fossil records found thus far in lava tubes of the Haleakala Volcano date to about 10,000 years ago. And these fossils suggest that the bird lived in a different environment than it currently does. Isolated now to a rainforest ecosystem, the fossil record shows that pollens found with the remains of the po'ouli are from a drier habitat and that the fossils found on the southwest face of the volcano indicate a past drier habitat. But, roughly at the time of the Polynesian occupation of the island, some 1500 - 2000 years ago, the po'ouli population declined and moved more towards a rainforest habitat. To further aggravate the situation, naturalists frequented the region that the bird occupies during the nineteenth century. Yet, the po'ouli was not described until this century. Indicate that the population of these birds may well have been minimal at that time, and that the overall decline of the birds is happening over centuries.

The po'ouli, being described from two immature specimens (see table 1) has had limited evaluations of its biology. It was not until 1997 that a live adult po'ouli was captured. Prior to this the knowledge of the bird was based off the holotype and paratype as well as field observations and nesting evaluations. The capture of the first live po'ouli occurred on January 15, 1997 by Paul E. Baker at an elevation of 1700 meters in the Hanawi Natural Area Reserve. The specifics of the morphological differences between this live specimen (tagged and released) and the holotype/paratype are given in table 1.

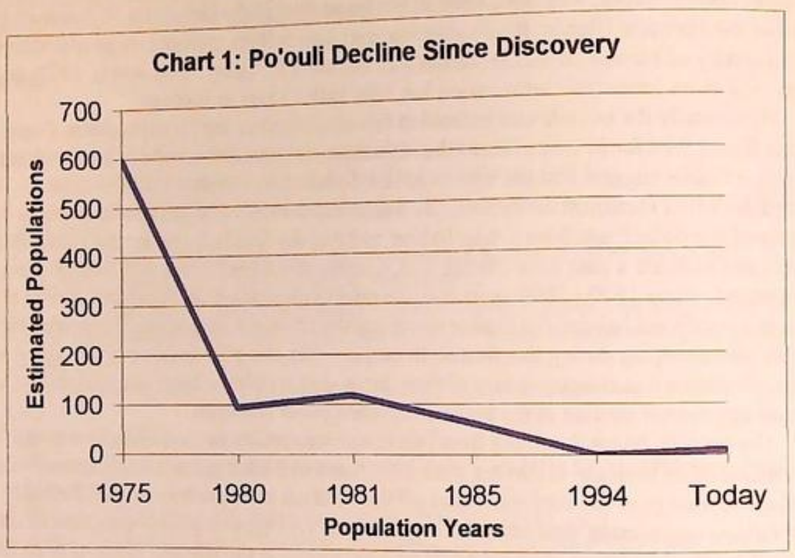
Characteristic	Holotype / Paratype	1997 Live Specimen
Wing Chord	74 mm & 72 mm	72 mm
Tail	38 mm & 36.5 mm	36 mm
Culmen (exposed)	15 mm & 14.5 mm	15.32 mm
Tarsus	27 mm & 25 mm	24.92 mm
Mass	25.5 g (holotype only)	26.2 mm
Sex	Probable Male	Male
Age	Unknown	Adult

Table 1: Variations Between Captured Adult and Holotype / Paratype Specimens

Current populations are isolated to a mountainous environment between the elevations of 1440 and 2070 meters. Here the precipitation ranges from 3 to 14 meters per year with temperatures approaching freezing at night and with winds blowing from the northeast causing a cloudy condition to the area. It is a tangled wet area with most of the upper canopies made up of ohi'a lehua trees (*Metrosideros polymorphis*) with smaller trees and shrubbery below. In the decades of the 1970's and 1980's feral pigs entered the area, destroying many of the trees and aiding in erosion of the topsoil. However, the area is now regenerating itself with native fauna, and some foreign species.

The po'ouli feeds predominantly on snails and insects. Most of the feeding occurs in the trees with little on ground foliage. Foraging occurs locally with other po'ouli as well as other honeycreepers. With short hops the bird travels along from branch to branch, or slow crawl up a tree. Rarely does the po'ouli fly, and when it does it is for a short direct flight with no observation of it flying above the forest canopy.

Population estimates are not promising. In 1975 the population was estimated at 76 birds/km^2. In 1980 the total population was estimated at about 12 birds/km^2, 15 birds/km^2 in 1981, 8 birds/km^2 in 1985, no findings in survey results from 1994 and an overall estimate in total of 10 birds surviving today (see chart 1 below).



Population decline is evidently seen in the above chart. The causes of this decline can possibly be traced to several causes, but due to lack of sufficient knowledge on this particular avian species the decline is not one hundred percent conclusive. Various diseases such as avipoxvirus and avian malaria have affected other honeycreepers. Current distribution of honeycreepers to higher elevations can possibly be traced to these diseases passed on by alien mosquitoes. For instance avipoxvirus arrived in the latter part of the nineteenth century after the arrival of mosquitoes to the islands in the 1820's. Weather conditions also appear to have a detrimental affect on breeding cycles and feeding habits, especially among the young. As the po'ouli once ranged in a drier, less hostile environment, it may well be more susceptible to variations in the temperature and weather in general. Additionally predation by certain mammal species may have a cause. It has been shown with other birds that rats invade the nesting sites of many birds, in the case of the po'ouli the black rat (*Rattus rattus*), introduced in the late nineteenth century may play a part as well in the population decline, especially among hatchlings. Food declines may play a part as well, with the introduction of various snails and their destruction of the some of the native species that the po'ouli lives on.

Overall the decline of the po'ouli has reached a critical point. But, with only a handful of specimens alive today, the probability of survival is low. If for no other reason then the po'ouli needs to be evaluated, as is being done now, to understand why in order to help save, if not the po'ouli, at least perhaps the other endangered species, known and unknown.

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

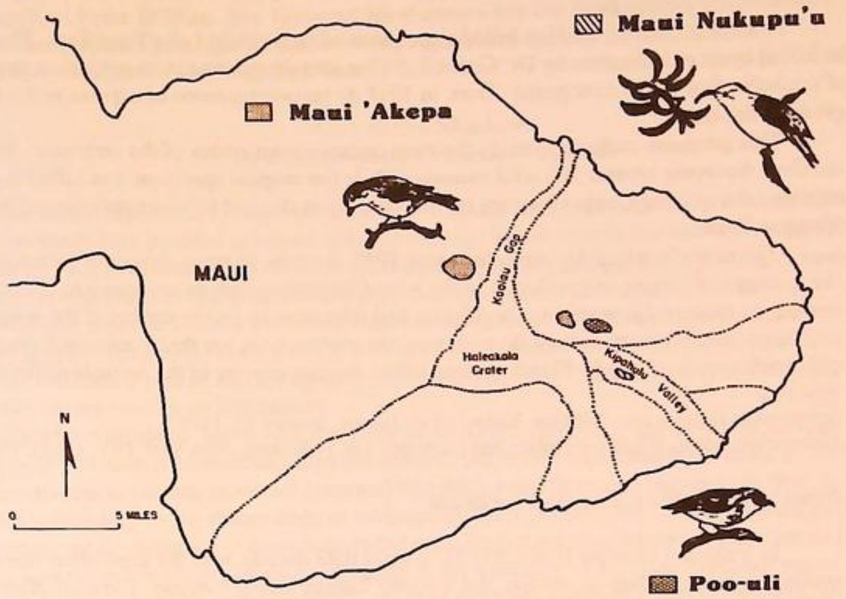


Figure 2. Distributions of the Maui Nukupuu, Maui Akepa, and Poo-uli.

Distribution of Po'ouli. Image is from *Maui-Molokai Forest Birds Recovery Plan* May 1984 Po'ouli distribution is just north of the Kipahulu Valley. Used under provisions of USC Title 17 § 107

References:

Baker, Paul E., A Description of the First Live Poouli Captured, *Wilson Bulletin Vol.110, No. 3*, 1998

Casey, Tonnie L.C., Jacoi, Jim, A New Genus and Species of Bird from the Island of Maui, Hawaii (Passeriformes: Drepanididae), *Occ. Papers of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum Number 24*, 1974

Chadwick, Alex, The Rare Po'ouli Bird, *NPR Broadcast*, April 6, 1998 (National Geographic R!dio Expedition)

Chadwick, Alex, The Rare Po'ouli Bird, *NPR Broadcast*, May 12, 1998 (National Geographic Radio Expedition)

Kepler, Cameron B. , Pratt, Thane K., Ecton, A. Marie, Englis, Andrew Jr., Fluetsch, Kimberly M., Description of Adults, Eggshells, Nestlings, Fledgling, and Nest of the Poo-uli, *Wilson Bulletin Vol.108, No. 4*, 1996

Kepler, Cameron B., Pratt, Thane K., Ecton, A. Marie, Englis, Andrew Jr., Fluetsch, Kimberly M., Nesting Behavior of the poo-uli, *Wilson Bulletin Vol. 108, No. 4*, 1996

Line, Les, Is This the World's Rarest Bird? *National Wildlife Vol. 36 No. 1*, December/January 1998

Maui-Molokai Forest Birds Recovery Plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, May 1984

Pratt, T.K., Kepler, C.B., and Casey, T.L.C. *Po'ouli (Malamprosops phaeosoma) in The Birds of North America*, No. 272 (A.Poole and F.Gill, editors), The Academy of Natural Sciences, and The American Ornithologists' Union, 1997

Rosa, Karen, Hopper, Dave, Reilly, Sharon, *Draft Environmental Assessment for Possible Management Acions to Save the Po'ouli*, United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, September 1998

Shuker, Karl, The Lost Ark: New and Rediscovered Animals of the 20th Century, Harper Collins, London (UK) 1993

News Note: 1916 Find to be Relocated

In 1916 a Charles M. Hoy killed a specimen of cetacean in Lake Tung Ting. The animal he killed upon examination by Dr. Gerrit S. Miller was determined to be not only a new species of porpoise, but also a new genus. Thus, in 1918 its taxonomic name of *Lipotes vexillifer* was given to the baiji.

This porpoise sadly is possibly the most endangered member of the cetaceans. With numbers hovering around 100 wild animals. While the original specimen was killed in an interior lake of China, today they are isolated mainly in the mid to lower stretches of the Yangtze River.

The animals, officially protected since 1949, are now in grave danger of extinction due to the increase of fishing and pollution in the area. Currently scientists are trying to find a safe manner to capture the remaining population and relocate it to a safer habitat in the wild. The problems, aside from monetary aid and governmental support, are that theses swift porpoises can reach speeds of nearly 40mph (64kmp), thus making capture of the animals difficult.

Sources:

Scientists to relocate rare dolphins, *Xinhua News Agency*, January 13, 1999
Carwardine, Mark, Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises, DK Publishing, New York (NY, USA), 1995

News Note: Yarlung Zangbo Expedition

In Volume I Number II of *CRYPTO* a news note dealing with the expedition into the worlds longest and deepest canyon, the Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon. The expedition ended in December 1998 with all three teams completing the trip. The three teams each ventured into different areas of this canyon, meeting at Chaqu, the center of the canyon.

The first team was lead by Li Bosheng (52), a botanist, whose team traveled down the water flow. The second team was led by Guan Zhihua (58), this team crossed over Mount Duoxiongla and then went upstream of the water flow. The final team was led by Gao Dengyi (58) and Zhang Wenjing, built the expedition base at Chaqu and then joined the first team.

Among the explorations discoveries are four multilevel waterfalls along the main waterway of the Yarlung Zangbo River. Additionally 3000 specimens of plant and animal life were collected. Among these was the finding of two shrubbery type plants called yew and texus. These may well be new species of these shrubberies. It was also expected that other new species of plant and animals would be found from the collected specimens and from other areas of the canyon. Time will tell what other discoveries are to be found in this canyon.

Sources:

Liang, Chen, Scientists evaluate fruits of canyon expedition, *China Daily*, December 23, 1998
Yarlung Zangbo Grand Canyon Expedition, *CRYPTO*, vol., no. II, December 1998
Grand Canyon Nature Reserve to Be Established, *Xinhua News Agency*, January 14, 1999

News Note: Sitatunga Rediscovered in Ghana

The sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*) was rediscovered in the Volta region of Ghana (Ghana lies in western Africa boardering the Gulf of Guinea to the south, Cote d'Ivoire, to the west, Togo to the east, and Burkina Faso to the north). The animal's discovery, as it was thought to be extinct in this area, occurred after a report by a hunter in June 1997. The hunter reported seeing an animal that closely resembled the sitatunga. A skin sample and a set of antlers found by the Nature Conservation and Research Centre with the help of a local hunter helped to establish the sitatunga as being present. Three animals have been identified, a pair of males and one female. An appeal to the World Wildlife Fund has been done to gain funds for research into the sitatunga in Ghana, this research, if it goes further, is expected to last until late 2001. The antelope is known from other parts of Africa currently as well.

Sources:

Antelope Feared to be Extinct Found in Ghana, *Africa News Service*, February 5, 1999

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

Editor's Note: The following article is reproduced in its entirety with the permission of the author, Peter O'Shea. Any typographical errors are the fault of this publication, and not the author. The original source of this report was for the St. Lawrence / Adirondack Chapter of the Audubon Society in 1994.

Out of the Shadows

By Peter O'Shea, Conservation Chair

The recent report of a 12 week old mountain lion cub being shot near the southeast corner of the Adirondack Park prodded my mind to begin musing. When we add this kill to the two kills mentioned by Paul Rezendes in his excellent field guide, Tracking and the Art of Seeing (Camden House Publishing, 1993) as being reported to DEC biologists in the past decade, and the kill documented near Saranac Lake in 1968, one wonders how many cougars does a population make? An incident relayed to me by a friend who is a Lieutenant in DEC'S Environmental Conservation Officer Force of another cougar shot in outlying Tug Hill in the early 1980's adds considerably to my musing on this subject.

The above incidents, along with hundreds of sightings, have been explained by DEC as being escaped or released animals all. They are quick to assert that numerous individuals in New York have permits to possess mountain lions and that the inevitable escape happens. At first, I subscribed completely to this theory even as evidence began to accumulate for the possibility of another origin for the presence of these long-tailed cats. Part of my transformation occurred as I gradually became aware of the prevailing situation in the wild area of the other northeast states. L and behold, the conditions there are of myriad verified sightings and even an occasional kill, all miraculously attributed to "escaped or released" individuals. Ever a trusting sort, I now began to question the prevailing theory concerning theses sightings.

I have no doubt that occasional cats are released or escape. The 12 week old cougar now being examined by the New York State pathologist may have even had such a beginning. Considering the multiplicity of continuing sightings in diverse areas of the northeast, I now feel strongly that it is contrary to all rational evidence that all of these sightings can be attributed to this particular hypothesis. For instance, research reveals that the Adirondack Park has had an uninterrupted slew of "panther" sightings since at least the early 1950's. Three feature articles in the official New York State magazine, The Conservationist in the time frame of the 1950's and 1960's address the questions of the panther's presence in the Adirondacks. With the same circumstances prevailing in all the wild areas of the northeast and the adjacent Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, I now feel quite strongly that the explanation of these sightings lies elsewhere.

The presence of these felines in the Adirondacks and their origin are more than academic Questions, since the subspecies of mountain lion that originally occurred locally was the "eastern cougar", Felis concolor cougar. The eastern cougar, like the closely allied Florida Panther (Felis concolor coryi), have been declared federal endangered species by the United States government. The federal and Florida state governments have expended untold efforts and funding in endeavoring to preserve the Florida panther and its habitat. If the "cougar" present in the Adirondacks and other wild areas of the east is truly the "eastern cougar", should not the same treatment be mandated by law here?

If by a major zoological miracle all the sightings reported in the wilder areas of the east do descend from escaped or released stock, we see the rise of an interesting situation. The cougars may be of a different subspecies, but the sheer volume and continuity of documented sightings attest to an unassailable fact: these cougars are surviving and apparently propagating in the wild. An indigenous extirpated species has returned on its own! In the Adirondack Park at least, this again becomes more than academic. The Temporary State Commission leading to the formation of the modern Adirondack Park Agency, specifically mandated restoring the cougar and other extirpated species when biologically feasible, The condition would seem to have occurred de facto if this then is the ascribed to theory. Either of the two possible theories predicates strongly

against officialdom blithely explaining away the feline presence as being "merely" attributable to "escapes" or "releases".

The public response of DEC becomes particularly puzzling when we take into consideration the fact that several of their wildlife biologists have indicated privately to me that there is more to the situation than the uniform official DEC response would suggest. A decade ago DEC officials publicly derided reports of cougar reports as being misidentifications all. As the reports mounted, they appear to have changed their view. This altering of their response may have been accelerated by the sightings of their own personnel. I have been directly informed by 6 DEC employees that they have personally observed cougars in the wild over the past 2 decades and I have heard of numerous second hand reports of other sightings by DEC field personnel. If they have changed their view in response to these sightings by their employees, perhaps it will be possible for them to process further in this matter. At this very minimum, the prevailing evidence would seem to mandate the swift inauguration of determined and extensive study to ascertain both the extent of the population and its true composition. A determination can then be made whether we are dealing with a recently established extirpated species or a remnant population of a federal endangered species. In either case, this resident population must be protected!

Professional methodology and parameters to confirm the existence and verify the composition of a cougar population are quite stringent, understandably so. This may account for the reticence of DEC in this matter to date. Still, the analysis of this compelling issue from both a biological and environmental purview is of such critical importance that it must no longer be shunted aside perfunctorily with patent replies.

The, too, there are ancillary questions. What of the many reports of black or melanistic cougars, the legendary "black panther"? A Maryland based group that has monitored reports of cougar sightings in the east for the past decade states that approximately 30% of the thousands of sightings reported to them are of black individuals. As melanistic cougars are apparently unknown in all western populations of the species, what can account for this incredibly high percentage of black individuals in the east? Just exactly what are we dealing with here? If the premise that these sightings result from both a remnant population of the federal endangered eastern panther, and from escapes (a premise I find quite plausible) is correct, could this have resulted in hybridization of the subspecies? If not, what of the future? And if hybridization occurs, what are the implications here from a biological and legal standpoint?

It is common knowledge that cats have nine lives. The cryptic nature of the cougar's presence in the Adirondacks and in other wild areas of the east is ample testimony to this tenacity of life. Still, his time of re-emergence from the shadows may be near at hand. I certainly hope so!

News Note: All I Want for Christmas is *Felis concolor*

On December 24, 1998 in Lincoln, New Hampshire a six-second videotape was shot of a possible cougar. Maureen Clark along with her nephew Rory Grant reported watching a large cat, through the kitchen window of Clark's house. They watched the animal for about 60 seconds or so, and then Clark went and retrieved her video camera and filmed the animal. The filming was at a distance of about fifty feet, and showed the animal moving slowly into the adjacent treeline.

The animal was described as having an orangish coat, elongated tail and a lean body. Heidi Helmuth and Christina Anderson who work with two cougars at the Wildlife Theater at Loon Mountain in Lincoln, New Hampshire, believed that the animal filmed was probably a cougar. Wildlife biologists in the state are more optimistic, two of them, Kent Gutafson and Mark Ellingwood, believe that what was filmed was probably a large feral cat with an elongated tail.

Sources:

Colquhoun, Lorna, Possible cougar sighting is reported in Lincoln, *The Union Leader*, January 1, 1999
Colquhoun, Lorna, Cougar in NH? Biologists to take a look, *The Union Leader*, January 4, 1999
Emery, Michelle, New Hampshire biologists question evidence of mountain lion's return, *AP*, January 11, 1999
Harrigan, John, It's too easy to dismiss cougar tales, *New Hampshire Sunday News*, January 10, 1999

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

The Media and Bigfoot

By Craig Heinselman

Since November 29, 1998, with the publication of an article by C.R. Robert's dealing with the finding of a "possible man-made" object on the subject of the 1967 Patterson - Gimlin Film, the world has been overwhelmed with a low key media blitz. Although it remained mostly quite after the Robert's article, it only served as the calm before the storm. For on January 9, 1999 John M. Hubbell in an *Associated Press* story really started the new venue of media cavalcade.

Hubbell's article, although offering very little new information, was picked published in various forms by newspapers all over North America, and in parts outside of this continent. *USA Today* offered a similar article then next day on January 10, 1999, and then it continued.

This first batch of stories was centered around the report that Christopher Murphy, a retired Quality Assurance Manager and author of a couple books on Quality Assurance, had found what he believed was a man-made object in four frames of the Patterson - Gimlin Film. The information from Murphy was then passed on to Cliff Crook, who exploited it as proof of a hoax. Most of these news stories neglected to mention several discrepancies in the findings. Most notably the following:

1) The images where obtained in many ways, laser color copy from Marjory Halpin's Manlike Monsters on Trial, cibachrome prints and from the NASI report by Jeff Glickman. [1,2,3]
2) The methodology used to find the reported object on the film. For example: Frame 352 had a laser color copy made from Halpin's book (in 1995) that where subsequently photographically enlarged (in 1996). Frames 350, 339 and 323 where scanned into a computer and enlarged electronically (in 1998). [1,2,3]
3) The reported frames (352, 350, 339, and 323) do not all show the object. For example: Frame 353 was the first frame wherein the object was found. This was done from a photographically enlargement from a color copy from the Halpin book. However, the same "object" was not visible in the cibachrome print. Frame 350 was scanned in from a cibachrome print, and the image was not visible. However, frame 350 from an original color copy of the NASI report did show the object. [1,2,3]
4) If the NASI report utilized the cibachrome prints in it, as Christopher Murphy stated, then why does the reported object only appear in the report version, and not the actual cibachrome? [1,2,3]

These are but a few of the discrepancies that show up when the actual research is looked at, even before analysis of the actual methodology. But,this information was not presented to the public by the media, only the superficial reports (in that it is meant the reports where skimpy on details). Since that January *Associated Press* article the "Bigfoot Community" has been abuzz. There have been direct attacks on the characters of Cliff Crook and Christopher Murphy. Hints of purposeful enhancements to the scanned images. Mentions of vengeance by these two against others, most particularly towards Rene Dahinden (owns part of the copyright to the Patterson - Gimlin Film). But, amongst these shots, there where some who evaluated the research, and in essence found the flaw in the suit of the research.

Several organizations and people have undertaken the task of evaluating the research. Of those that have reported, the basic finding is that using the methodology utilized by Murphy this imagery would not be possible. The image quality upon being digitized would not hold up to detailed analysis when the image is magnified in excess of 1000X (or 2918X as stated by Murphy in a close up view[4]). The image seen could be anything, and it is basically undeterminable as to what the nature, if any, there is of this object in the film. As for the claims that the image changes positions in the various frames, this can be resolved in the same manner. For example, if the "object" is a stationary solid object then movement is natural, this occurs naturally as in the case of matted hair. If the object is an illusion, a trick of light reflecting off the subject's hair, then the angle of reflection of this light will change during movement. There is no substantiation that the "object" found by Murphy is indeed a man-made object. [5]

One interesting correlation, almost clairvoyant in nature, was a short article by Dr. Henner Fahrenbach and Jeff Glickman in Volume 1, Number 1 of the *NASI News* from January 1998. The first important note of the !rticle deals with image magnification:

"Usually such examination is done on prints that are magnified to or well beyond the limit of profitable enlargement with the result that the optical "noise" of the emulsion, usually called the grain, assumes a life of its own and invites spurious and fanciful interpretations."[6,7]

And second note deals with the maximum size viewed mathematically from this film:

"What this means is that there can be no talk about detecting individual strands of hair, insect bites, the pupil, teeth or whatever fine detail... Actually, everything there is to be seen in the pictures is visible with the naked eye at 50-100X magnification, i.e. surprisingly, common sneezes prevails in "what-you-see-is-what-you-get." Thus, finger or toe detail, that should lie in the vicinity of this 2" limit, does not show up crisply at all. Any conclusions based on supposed detail below the stated limit are largely a function of the imagination of the examiner, should be viewed with grave suspicion, and would require heroic proof to be convincing. Analysis based on anything other than direct copies of the original film frames is also to be avoided at all costs due to the above considerations."[6,7]

This is not the first time the film, its subject or its filmers have come under scrutiny. But, this was the latest. Or so it was thought. But, yet another story emerges in late January 1999. This time with a person who claims they were inside the suit used in the actual filming, and thus it is he that appears as "Patty" in the infamous film.[8]

This new story is that a 58-year-old man from Yakima Valley (California) had approached attorney Barry Woodard several months ago. This was after a news program called this man questioning the reality of the 1967 film. Reportedly this mystery man wanted aid in negotiating with the network as well as correlated legal ramifications of his involvement. He reportedly passed a 75-minute lie detector test administered by a retired police offer named Jim McCormick on January 28, 1999.

Additional comments in this article relate how others familiar with Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin during the 1960's have been continuously amazed by how people believe in this film when they know the truth, and the film is a fake.

This new story will have to be evaluated like any other. To determine the validity of it. Past cases, like the Chamber's story from a few years back that where favorites of the debunkers, have turned out to be false claims. False claims that have been turned about by dedicated researchers. What seems ironic is that the media that shows so often a one side sensationalistic manner towards reporting of these type of stories (like the correlation between Bigfoot and Elvis sightings[9]) is also one of the main sources of information. Another key area is that one must be cautious at taking information at face value and must evaluate the information independently (if possible) from the controversy. For the truth must be presented eventually, and the facts will one day arise from the flames.

Source:

Ahearn, Lorraine, Bigfoot theory: reality is what you make of it, *Greensboro News & Record*, Jan 15, 1999[9]
Crook, Cliff, Personal Communications January 9 and 18, 1999
Fahrenbach, Henner and Glickman, Jeff, Resolution Related to the Patterson/Gimlin Film, *NASI News Vol. 1, No. 1*, January 1998[6]
Fahrenbach, Henner, Reporting of article from *NASI News Vol. 1, No. 1* with slight changes and recalculations, posted to IVBC January 22, 1999[7]
Glickman, Jeff, *Toward a Resolution of the Bigfoot Phenomenon*, NASI, 1998
Hubbell, John M., Two Bigfoot Buffs Say Film is a Hoax, *Associated Press*, January 9, 1999
Murphy, Christopher, The Story of the Strange Detail in the Patterson/Gimlin Film, Posted to IVBC, Nov. 30, 1998[1]
Murphy, Christopher, Personal Communications, January 2, 3,9,11, and 15, 1998[2,4]
Murphy, Christopher, Unusual Creature Detail Discussion Paper: Patterson/Gimlin Film, September 1998[3]
Murphy, Christopher, Unusual Creature Detail Discussion Paper: Patterson/Gimlin Film Part Two, 1998
Murphy, Christopher, Unusual Creature Detail Discussion Paper: Patterson/Gimlin Film Part Three, 1998
Roberts, C.R., Bigfoot film: Disproof may be in the details, *The News Tribune*, November 29, 1998
Roberts, C.R., Our need for Bigfoot will only get stronger, *Th% News Tribune*, January 23, 1999
Rose, Joseph, Sasquatch: Man in a Monkey Suit?, *Wired News*, January 19, 1999
Wasson, David, Bigfoot Unzipped – Man Claims It Was Him in a Suit, *Herald-Republic*, Jan. 30, 1999[8]
Bigfoot film sets enthusiasts at odds, *USA Today*, January 10, 1999
Personal communications with three photographic analysts, identities anonymous per their request [5]
Personal communications with various sources that wish to remain anonymous per their request [5]

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

Editor's Note: The following sightings information is reprinted with the permission of Gary Campbell, president of *The Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club*, 9 Burn Brae Place, Inverness, Scotland, IV2 5TA. This list appeared in *The Nesspaper Volume 3, Issue 1, January 1999*.

Here are the last year's sightings of something unexplained in Loch Ness

23.11.98	A local woman was a passenger in a car travelling north along the loch side when she saw a head and neck appear from the water at 1510 hours.
24.10.98	A Hertfordshire couple on holiday in the area saw a large creature moving under the waters of the loch at 1100 hours about half way up the loch.
20.10.98	A local van driver spotted something in the flat calm waters of the loch at 1100 hours near Cherry Island.
22.9.98	A monster hunter undertaking an early morning watch of the loch reported a strange fast moving wake near the Loch Ness Caravan and Camping Park at Invermoriston.
5.9.98	A Newcastle man and his family were aboard the boat "Nessie Hunter" when the man videoed an unidentified creature just south of Urquhart Castle.
16.7.98	An Invermoriston woman saw a wake and humps travel across the loch towards them at 2130 hours.
12.7.98	A man visiting from Fife saw a high speed v-shaped wake appear in the middle of the loch.
19.6.98	A group enjoying an evening cruise on the "Jacobite Queen" saw a large object in the water near Urquhart Castle.
17.6.98	Four men saw a large creature in the loch early in the morning near Inverfargaig.
30.5.98	A Marlborough woman reported a black object ten feet high in the water directly beside Urquhart Castle.
1.5.98	A family visiting from England saw an animate object appear in the middle of the loch near to the Loch Ness Caravan and Camping Park at Invermoriston.

News Note: Nessie on a coin from 1795?

In the latter part of 1998 Steven Whitlie was given a coin that dates to around 1795. On the coin was reportedly an image of Loch Ness and its famous inhabitant, "Nessie". If the coin did indeed depict this creature, it would be a rare find and show a stronger historical background to the Loch Ness phenomena. However, the reality was that although the coin was from the stated time period it really showed a hom of plenty and not the creature from Loch Ness.

Sources:
Query Over Nessie Coin, *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, February 27, 1999
Post by Gary Campbell to the nessie e-mail list (nessie@onelist.com), March 21, 1999

News Note: First 1999 Reported Sighting from Loch Ness

An American from West Virginia reported seeing a creature on a beach between Foyers and Dores. The animals was 30 and 50 feet in length with a long neck. The creature went back into the water as the man approached. This is the first reported account of a mystery animal in Loch Ness this year and it was reported to the Official Loch ness Monster Fan Club. This land sighting also marks a first reported incident in over 30 years, with the last land report (i.e. animal on land) occurring in 1963. The incident occurred February 22, 1999 at around 8:30 in the morning.

Sources:
Swimmer Tells of Loch Ness Close Encounter, *The Herald*, March 8, 1999
Personal communication with Gary Campbell March 19, 1999

News Note: The Feel of Loch Ness

The reported physical contact between Robert Badger and the creature in Loch Ness has won him the annual 500-pound reward from bookmakers William Hill for 1998. This reward is given each year to the best report from Loch Ness. Badger was working on a boat moored across from Urquhart Castle near Temple Bay when he spotted a large creature exiting the bay into the main area of the loch. As the two passed each other Badger he estimated the body to be around 20 feet in diameter, and upon touching the creature he felt a rough texture. Fearful Badger swam away from the area as quickly as he could. It is possible that Robert Badger has had a one of a kind experience with this animal, and may well be the only person to have physically touched it.

Sources:
Harper, James, I Swam with Nessie, *Sunday Mirror*, March 7, 1999
Swimmer Tells of Loch Ness Close Encounter, *The Herald*, March 8, 1999

News Note: Reef Discovery of Plover

The rare shore plover (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*) has now had an increase of nearly 20% of its population thanks to the discovery of a small population of 21 of these birds on a reef close to the Chatham Islands of New Zealand by a crayfisherman's observant eye. Prior to the discovery of this isolated bird population the total known shore plover population hovered around 120 members, all on Rangatira Island (also called South East Island). The Chatham Islands lie roughly 530 miles from the east coast of New Zealand and consist of two main islands, Chatham Island and Pitt Island, with other smaller islands and reefs in the area.

The shore plover is a member of the worldwide-distributed dotterel group. In New Zealand there exist several species of these waders, however only three are endemic to the area. These being the wrybill (*Anarhynchus frontalis*), New Zealand dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*), and the shore plover.

Sources:
New Zealand Rare Plover Colony Discovered, *The Dominion*, March 6, 1999
Gaze, Peter, Rare and Endangered New Zealand Birds, Canterbury University Press, Christchurch (NZ), 1994

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

A Report on the 11th Annual Ohio Bigfoot Conference
By Craig Heinselman

On March 6, 1999 the Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group presented their annual Bigfoot Conference in Newcomerstown, Ohio. This was the 11th annual conference and had four notable speakers, "Smokey" Crabtree, Larry Battson, Bob Chance and Loren Coleman. Despite the snowy weather a number of people, 143 according to Don Keating, attended to hear the speakers, meet others and overall have an enjoyable time.

Don Keating, despite having a bought of the flu, presented the speakers and ran the conference efficiently. Larry Battson spoke first. Battson, an wildlife educator from Indiana has a great knowledge of wildlife in general and travels to shows and schools throughout the country showing some of his animals and lecturing. He has also appeared on various television shows with his animals. Battson spoke of reports from Indiana, a state that does not immediately come to mind when a person says the word "Bigfoot". He recounted various stories told to him, including two by his own wife. Battson also announced, as well as sold subscriptions to, an audio series on Bigfoot in Indiana to come out latter this year.

Bob Chance, from Maryland spoke next. He was an unscheduled speaker, and as such was rushed in his presentation so as not to steal time from the scheduled presenters. He showed a slide presentation of some of his findings in Maryland, and how he believes these creatures travel in conjunction with the waterways.

Next up was a true classic, "Smokey" Crabtree. Smokey is famous from the infamous "The Legend of Boggey Creek" movie produced and directed by Charles B. Pierce in 1973. Smokey, getting on in years now, was with his teenage son. He spoke of the problems associated with the Pierce movie and the legal issues that came out of it. He also commented strongly on the selling of his 1974 Smokey and the Fouke Monster book over the internet on an on-line auction house, wherein he was given the short end of the stick by paying for postage costs, while the person auction off the books (without the books in hand) ended up making a nice profit. But, the essential portion of his presentation was on the Fouke Monster from Fouke, Arkansas. The history of the area and how his family became involved in the case, and are still involved with the case. He also reported that he had also discovered a large skeleton from the swamp that had no head.

Loren Coleman from Maine was the final speaker of the night. Coleman presented a video collage of various movie representations of Bigfoot, to show how popular culture views the subject. He then presented a slide show that demonstrated the new classification system presented in his new book with Patrick Huyghe, The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide.

The conference was an interesting experience, and despite latter finger pointing and accusations by a small group of Ohioans that claimed prize give aways were rigged, it went over well. On top of the speakers, several items were for sale by people, as well as a demonstration of a hidden video camera from a group from Maryland. On sale were copies of "Smokey" Crabtree's Smokey and the Fouke Monster, these where the last of the 1st printings from 1974, and there is now a 2nd printing available. Crabtree was also selling hats and t-shirts with the "Smokey and the Fouke Monster" theme. Loren Coleman was also selling some pre-release copies of his new *Field Guide* book, as the book didn't officially go on the market to the following Tuesday. The Tri-State Bigfoot Study Group was also selling various items, including some nice hand made Bigfoot clocks, documentaries regarding the reports of Bigfoot in Ohio, a tape of a possible Bigfoot vocalization, and other various items. The group from Maryland sold copies of The Bigfoot Digest by Mark Opsasnick, aside from showing their video camera system.

Aside from the merchandise and excellent speakers at the show, the highlight was meeting others with an interested in the subject. Whether this was sitting with Chris Kraska, Marc DeWerth, "Smokey" Crabtree and his son, and Loren Coleman in Loren's hotel room and talking. Or, sitting and a few meals with a large group of Bigfooters, with the knowledge that you were not the only one present who knew there was something out there. All in all the conference was a distinct pleasure to attend, and the next one should be as well.

1999 CRYPTO

Cryptofiction:

Tarzan and the Abominable Snowmen

By: Barton Werper (1965)

Tarzan, Lord Greystoke, has been a cultural icon for most of the twentieth century. Having appeared in countless films, television, books and comic strips. He was the creation of Edgar Rice Burroughs, a prolific writer at the turn of the century who's other creations have been immortalized in television, movies and books as well.

But, Tarzan and the Abominable Snowmen is not one of Burroughs novels. Rather it was one of a series of six short novels put out by The New International Library, Inc. from Derby, Connecticut starting in 1964. The series, which comprises the following novels: Tarzan and the Silver Globe, Tarzan and the Cave City, Tarzan and the Snake People, Tarzan and the Snake People, Tarzan and the Abominable Snowmen, and Tarzan and the Winged Invaders. These novels where written without the permission of the Burroughs estate and used characters held in the Burroughs trust. Eventually a federal court order ceased the infringements and the remaining shelf copies of the books where destroyed. It is one of these pseudo-Tarzan stories that will be dealt with here.

"There have been more sightings in the Himalayas... But by no means have all been there. There have been sightings, some of them so documented as to be undeniable, from such diverse spits as the Urals, Northern California in the United States, Canada and so forth and so on. Including Kilimanjaro..."

And so the story is set. Mount Kilimanjaro is to be the search area for the famous yeti. Now, here is where the factual basis starts to slide, for the yeti is associated with the Himalayan range, and not Africa. Within Africa such manlike creatures have been reported under such names as Sehite, Muhalu, Agogwe, and Apamandi. Their correlation to the yeti of the Himalayas is superficial in the story as it is taken that such creatures as reported in various parts of the globe are of one particular kind.

The essence of the story within its short 126 pages was that a British expedition, with the aid of local tribesmen, John Clayton (a.k.a. Tarzan or Lord Greystoke), Jane Clayton (Tarzan's wife), Jack Clayton (Tarzan's son) and various expedition characters, was to ascend Mount Kilimanjaro in search of the yeti of that region. But, unbeknown to the expedition members, there is an exiled Egyptian Queen, Queen Ak-Ahmen, ruling a group of followers that live within the mountain. They utilize the yetis as entertainment, food and slaves.

"Now the yeti advance slowly, regarding each of its opponents warily. As its muscles rippled, old scars showed beneath the heavy fur. This was apparently a veteran fighter. The slaves, as if at a prearranged plan, separated. One moved to the left of the slowly advancing beast, another to the right, while the third slipped around the arena until he was behind. Now the yeti stopped in its tracks, as if in indecision, glancing in turn at all three of its attackers. Brandishing their giant, deadly, curved scimitars, the three slaves started to close in, a step at a time, upon the beast. The yeti made a sound between a grunt and a whistle, took one step towards an advancing slave, then whirled and charged the slave creeping up on him from behind. A sweep of its giant paw, and the slave's scimitar went whistling off across the arena, and the slave himself screamed in agony, his useless arm dangling, broken. Without pause, the yeti charged still another slave, sustaining a mighty blow of the scimitar. Seemingly immune to pain, it wrapped both massive arms about its victim, and squeezed just once. It was holding a lifeless

corpse! And now, the beast flung the body in its arms at the third slave, knocking him sprawling, then raced to him and stomped on his prostrate form, literally crushing the life from his body!"

What to make of the violence associated here with the Africanized yeti. Is it really a bloodthirsty killer, or simply forced to kill to survive? That does get cleared up latter, as:

"The so called 'tame' yeti were the vicious ones, the killers, because they had been drugged. The wild yeti are timid, shy and peace-loving."

So, the exiled Queen essential created the killer yetis by way of drugging them, then they caged them to further enrage them ("*... then he realized that the yeti did not have fingers, but paws, and the bolt required the use of fingers.*"). Utilizing their great strength and endurance, the evil Queen used them as toys of sport, the lions of the arena.

Essential what this story tells is that yetis exist in the wilds of Mount Kilimanjaro as shy reclusive creatures. But capable of great savagery as demonstrated by their reactions under drugged conditions. Nowhere in the story is there any attempt to evaluate the African yetis as biological creatures, they are simply viewed as the goal of an expedition, and then as enemies in battle. The closest the story comes to dealing with the yeti in an un-drugged fashion occurs at the end. Here a young yeti is consoled by one of the women members of the expedition. The creature has taken a liking to her, and is to return to London to be put in a zoo and be examined profusely by science. It is compared at one point as being "*like a puppy*" a creature as a youth that is to be adored and laughed at for its clumsy and foolish manners.

The story does offer some correlation to recent statements by Reinhold Messner (his 1998 German language book Yeti: Legende und Wirklichkeit is to be published in English in 1999 by Macmillan Publishing House) in stating that the yeti is in fact a bear:

"The damned things are bears! They really are. Discount the human-type face on them! Take everything else into consideration. They're bears, by the Lord! As big or bigger than the Kodiak, off Kodiak island! Unbelievable. And with a considerably higher degree of intelligence. But they are bears, of a sort."

In reality the book offers little in the way of actual description of what the yeti is, or may be. Nor does it attempt to, rather both the Tarzan name and Yeti name are used as tools to sell a book that deals with neither creature in a true fashion. Hybridization of reports from the Himalayas and North America are combined as one creature with descriptions haphazardly put together to show the creature. This coupled with an Egyptian presence in Africa that knows all about the yetis, including their name makes the story even more unbelievable. Although some facts are true the combined information regarding the yeti is misleading:

First, the yeti. The name is a Sherpa word, which actually was wrongly translated into the rather picturesque 'Abominable Snowman'. Actually, a more correct translation (although one cannot translate literally from the Sherpa tongue) would be 'Rock man' or 'Man who lives in rocks.' This should give us at least a hint of where to look, eh? They range in height from about four feet to seven or even possibly eight feet... the one sighted in Northern California was reported to be considerably larger, something between ten and twelve feet in height and incredibly strong. Picked up a wheel off a piece of earth-moving equipment that weighed in at well over eight hundred pounds and tossed it across a road and down a cliffside..."

Now lets look at each of these above items in turn from literature that was available at the time the story was written. First the translation, Yeti has been translated by Yonah N. ibn Aharon (in Ivan Sanderson's Abominable Snowman: Legend Come to Life) to mean:

"This is rapidly becoming the key name used by foreigners for ABSM in the Himalayan region. The Nepali pronoun ye, and the Tibetan the, produce the provincial yite, yihda, and yehda. Herin, there is no connection with the Mongolian yati (cold), the ye being a dual form of yi (these) in literary Newari (see Turner's dictionary). Nepalese ti may not be current among the hill people - see letter read before the Benares Congress in Observance of the 2500th Anniversary of the Buddha by one Anag. Dzhi-blo-Langyarup. From the (see above) meaning "living thing," we get a concept that again can be expressed only in Cockney English. This imply "That-there Thing.""

Aside from this altered translation, it can also be noted that it appears to be Henry Newman who translated and printed the Tibetan name *metoh kangmi* as meaning "abominable or filthy man of the snow" (also having spelled the Tibetan name as *metch kangmi*). It appears thus that the Abominable Snowman translation stated is erroneous and is more likely a reflection of Henry Newman's mistranslation. Another possibility of using the name Abominable Snowmen is from the acronym ABSM from Ivan Sanderson's Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life. Wherein the ABSM is used generically, but with localized variations such as the Yeti, Almas and Sasquatch.

Now the Northern California wheel picker needs to be looked at. Given the time period and the awkward description, this presented case appears to be the Gerald Crew and Ray Wallace case from 1958 near Bluff Creek in California. In this case a 55-gallon drum of diesel fuel was found moved by a possible Sasquatch. The drum, nearly full was moved from next to a road to some 175 feet away and at the bottom of a banking after being apparently thrown from the top. Also in the same time frame was the removal of a tire, if at least 250 pounds, from a piece of machinery. And the tire being moved about 1/4 of a mile and then thrown into another deep embankment. Again, the facts from the novel are close, but not exact.

Now what of the height descriptions? These do in fact fall within reported ranges from the areas in question. Although 10 to 12 foot descriptions are the rarity, with the typical reports being up to about 9 feet. So loosely this is a truthful section.

All of these examples are from the books or periodicals available at the time the book was written. These being Bernard Heuvelmans' On the track of Unknown Animals (1955), Ivan Sanderson's Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life (1961) and Ivan Sanderson's The Strange Story of America's Abominable Snowman from *True Magazine (1959)*. Overall the elements used in the novel to describe the creature are truthful, but mixed with subtle misrepresentations.

Overall the novel needs to be looked at as a flawed story, that as the justice system proved was to be infringing on the namesake of Edgar Rice Burrough's most famous creation. The lack of endurance of this story also adds a sense of fruitlessness to it. But, as novels today continue to bastardize the factual basis for reports of varies cryptozoological creatures, one cannot fault an early one. One must just weigh the scales of justice, and rely on the facts.

Sources:

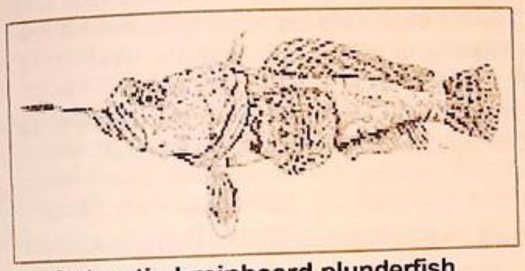
Crossland, David, Mountaineer Destroys Myth of the "Yeti", *Reuters*, October 8, 1998
Heuvelmans, Bernard On the Track of Unknown Animals 3rd Ed., Kegan Paul International, London,1995
Lupoff, Richard A., Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master of Adventure, Ace Books, New York, 1968
Sanderson, Ivan, The Strange Story of America's Abominable Snowman, *True Magazine*, 1959
Sanderson, Ivan, Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life, Chilton Company, Philadelphia, 1961
Werper, Barton, Tarzan and the Abominable Snowmen, New International Library, Inc., Derby, 1965
The Abominable Snowman Unmasked, *Inter Press Service*, October 21, 1998

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

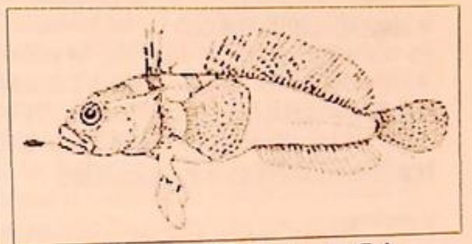
New Notes: Four New Fish Species from Antarctica

Joseph Eastman, a researcher during a National Science Foundation research cruise in Antarctica, has netted four new fish species. Eastman's research into he anatomy of buoyancy in fish and its evolution in Antarctic species has led him to believe that the Antarctic region has been the site of a recent adaptive radiation, essentially allowing a prosperous niche of notothenioids. Some of these notothenioids have evolved a larger body fat and can now live in the center water column instead of being bottom dwellers.

These four new species, including the first addition to the *Artedidraco* genus in close to eighty years, came out of ten trawls from two different research occasions in the Ross Sea onboard the NSF icebreaker Nathaniel B. Palmer. Two of the new species (shown below) are the Antarctic brainbeard plunderfish (*Pogonophryne cerebropogon*) and the Antarctic gravelbeard plunderfish (*Artedidraco glareobarbatus*). The brainbeard was collected at 300 meters depth in the Ross Sea and is over a foot in length. The gravelbeard was collected at 130 meters depth near Franklin Island in the Ross Sea and is around six inches in length.



Antarctic brainbeard plunderfish (*Pogonophryne cerebropogon*)



Antarctic gravelbeard plunderfish (*Artedidraco glareobarbatus*)

Images used under provisions of USC Title 17 § 107

Sources:

NSF - Funded Researcher Plucks Four Unknown Fish Species from Antarctic Waters, NSF Press Release March 4, 1999
NSF - Funded Researcher Plucks Four Unknown Fish Species from Antarctic Waters, ScienceDaily News, March 8, 1999

New Notes: 37 Year Old Frozen Fish

A blue pike caught in Lake Erie by Jim Anthony in 1962, and frozen since then. The frozen fish may end of solving the riddle of the extinction of the blue pike from Lake Erie. Since in 1975 this species has been declared extinct, yet sporadic accounts from other lakes suggest small populations may exist. However, a DNA sample is needed to definitively declare the blue pike a separate species from the walleye, and the specimens at museums are preserved in formaldehyde which inhibits accurate DNA extraction.

The blue pike was once prolific in Lake Erie that a large fishing industry sprang up areound it, but due to overfishing and pollution the species declines and disappeared. Those reported pockets of fish on other lakes may be generations of release specimens into those lakes in the 1930's and 40's. With the accusation of good DNA from the frozen specimen a conclusion as to wether the blue pike is a unique species or part of the walleye family can be decided, and then perhaps other populations found and the pike may again live in Lake Erie.

Sources:

Belluck, Pam, Fish Frozen for 37-Years May Help Solve Mystery, *The New York Times*, March 15, 1999

Media Reviews:

If your looking to purchase one of these books, known sources that carry them are listed by each title. Additionally use the ISBN number and order it through a local bookstore in your area (always best to support local merchants if possible). Additionally a five star rating system has been utilized, the highest rating is henceforth five stars ..... and the lowest rating one star . These ratings appear next to the publisher, year and length of item (as applicable to media being reviewed).

In the Domain of the Lake Monsters
Author: John Kirk
ISBN 1-55263-010-2
Key Porter Books, 1998, 303 Pages .....

For those interested books can be purchased directly from John Kirk. You can contact John Kirk at blackhawk@ultranet.com . It can be obtained for $35.00 by residents of the U.S., and $40.00 for residents elsewhere in the world, for more detail write to BCSCC, c/o Suite 89 - 6141 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada V5H 2T9 or on the web at http://www/ultranet.ca/bcscc/ .If ordering by one of these manners please make the money order out to J. Kirk, Treasurer. More information and reviews are also available on the web at http://www.ultranet.ca/bcscc/domain.htm .

Written by John Kirk, the president of the British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club, this book deals with four different areas. First, and foremost, is the personal recounting of the author's experiences in searching for the mystery animal of Okanagan Lake, Ogopogo, of British Columbia, Canada. Secondly, a sampling of lake denizens of the world. Third, a comparison between Ogopogo and Nessie of Loch Ness in Scotland. Finally, a listing of numerous lakes around the world in which mysterious creatures have been reported is supplied.

Each of the four areas has an importance. However the first offers the best insight into what goes on in ones mind when searching for an animal such as Ogopogo. The story recanted is one that shows humanity behind the searches, and an honesty of errors and mistakes that others can learn from. Other books have dealt with these animals in the past, but few if any have offered the personal touch demonstrated by personal recollections and behind the scenes, personally and professionally, in dealing with this area of research. Below is an excerpt of one such honest, and wryly humorous, account of a sighting of Ogopogo.

"In the annals of lake monster research the phenomenon known as "left-the-lens-cap-on syndrome" has plagued researchers and witnesses who have had cameras in their possession at the time of a sighting. Lens caps are left on, cameras jam, people run out of film, some have dropped cameras into the water, others have not properly focused their cameras. One can put this down to nerves, inexperience, ill-preparedness and plain misfortune. I was to suffer from this one other occasion, leaving me with no record of a magnificent sighting of not one, but two animals."

The second part offers snippets of information detailing Lake Creatures from around the world. These include both the better known ones, such as Memphre from Lake Memphremagog and the Bunyips from Australia, to the lesser known ones, such as the creatures reported in Kamloops Lake and Cressie from Crescent Lake. Although many are dealt with only briefly, the reader gets the impression overall that these creatures are not unique to the famous lakes, but have been reported in a myriad of incarnations throughout the world.

CRYPTO
Volume II, Number I
April 1999

The third portion of the book compares the reported behavior, ecology and anatomy of Ogopogo to that of Nessie (from Loch Ness). This is done not to show they are one and the same type of creature, rather that the reported characteristics are not necessarily the same. For instances below is an excerpt from a section dealing with *Skin Texture*:

"What is apparent from many of the sightings at Loch Ness is that the creature frequently seen by observers has very mottled and rough-textured skin., reminiscent of that of an elephant. This cannot be said of the skin of Ogopogo animals. The eyewitness testimony is unanimous that the creature possesses very smooth and shiny skin not unlike that of a whale - particularly killer whales."

The final portion is a listing of various waterways throughout the world where mysterious animals have been reported.

Overall John Kirk's book is a pleasure to read, and makes a fitting addition to a home library. There are a few drawbacks, but overall they are mild. First, aside from the Mansi photograph on the cover there are no more photos or illustrations throughout the book. This allows the reader to extrapolate the images for themselves, but also does hinder the following of certain areas. For instances, when the stories of filming the creatures are recounted there is no visual evidence given for evaluation. Secondly, there is no bibliography. The sources are mentioned throughout the text, but a quick search for further research is no readily available. Thirdly, there is no index. This does draw a hindrance in searching for a particular incident or name mention. The table of contents at the beginning is broken into subsections, so searching is easier.

These are overall mild drawbacks, that do not lessen the importance of John Kirk's book. He has written a readable and compelling book of his research, and of others. The reader ultimately makes their own decision on the reality of some or none of the creatures dealt with. It is as John Kirk has demonstrated in the book a personal experience and journey, but one that should not be taken blindly and gullibly. Universally, skepticism is still present in the writing as demonstrated below:

"Although Okanagan Lake is three times as long as Loch Ness, the latter gives one the distinct impression that it is much longer. I don't know why thus should be, but it simply appeared that way to me. I did not really expect to have a sighting, simply because I was not fully convinced whether anything abnormal actually lived in the loch. I had had the benefit of actually seeing Ogopogo on a number of occasions, but as far as the Ness creature was concerned I was not impressed with most of the extant photographs (although I was never able to explain away the Dinsdale film)."

John Kirk's final words in the epilogue sum up the book:

"The writer has interviewed far too many people of integrity who have clearly seen an animal in a North American or Scottish Lake which they have not been able to identify as any other animal in the textbooks. It will take a scientist with great courage to step forward and assume the mantle of chief investigator of this phenomenon and provide the masterful leadership that this particular field of science so desperately requires. Whoever he or she may be, the right individual will have to be possessed of thick skin, infinite patience and an ear attuned to the subtleties and nuances of this very exciting and stimulating field of scientific endeavor.

The question is does this sort of scientist actually exist or are they merely a myth like those which dwell in the domain of the lake monster?"

The Field Guide to Bigfoot, Yeti, and Other Mystery Primates Worldwide
Author: Loren Coleman and Patrick Huyghe, Illustrated by Harry Trumbore
ISBN 0-380-80263-5
Avon Books, 1999, 207 Pages ....

Books are available from most chain bookstores as well as www.amazon.com and www.borders.com (and various other on-line bookstores). Additionally, for those interested books can be purchased directly from Loren Coleman, who will autograph them for you. To receive an autographed copy send a check to Loren Coleman, P.O. Box 360, Portland, Maine (USA) , 04112. The cost is $12.50 for the book + shipping ($3.20 in the United States, $6.95 in Canada and Europe). Any questions on the cost to purchase straight from Loren Coleman contact him at the aforementioned address or e-mail lcolema1@maine.rr.com.

In Loren Coleman and Patrick Huyghe's corroboration a new classification system is proposed for mystery primates from throughout the world. This new system borrows from several others work, such as Ivan Sanderson and Mark Hall, but adds some new twists. Overall the book can be viewed as a conceptual idea that can, and may well, cause a reevaluation of how people look at reports of Bigfoot, Almas, Yetis and so forth.

The classification system is broken into nine parts, each with specific segregations as to why the classes are different. This new classification includes, Neo-Giant, True Giant, Marked Hominid, Neandertaloid, Erectus Hominid, Proto-Pygmy, Unknown Pongid, Giant Monkey, and Merbeing. Included with each classification is a world map showing historical and current ranges (as they apply) as well as basic characterizations, sizes and behaviors of the creatures.

Among these nine classes, the merbeing one will in all likelihood be the most controversial. As it includes such creatures as Steller's Sea Ape and the Chupacabra. The first creature being often associated with a pinniped and the latter creature being associated by many with UFO's and the paranormal. These merbeings are further defined as:

"The Merbeing, or water creature, is perhaps the most traditional of all the undiscovered nonhuman primates. Perhaps surprisingly the Mermaids and Mermen of ancient lore are still being seen today, though, apparently, in far fewer numbers. Yet this group of water-connected beings ranges far beyond the Merpeople of yore and includes such varieties as the Sea Ape of the Bering Sea, the scaly-looking but actually hairy and misnamed Lizard Men , and the fiery-eyed Latino phenomenon known as the chupacabras. While a growing Hispanic population in the Americas is only now actively examining and discussing their Merbeing sightings, Asians have been aware of their kappas and other Merbeings for centuries."

The format of the book is one representative of a series of *Field Guides* but out by Avon. As such, the style is limited and information is condensed. This leaves one wanting more information, and realistically in reclassifying some of these mystery primates the added information would have helped. But, taken in the concept of a book in a series (Patrick Huyghe has authored, or co-authored three other books in the series, one on Extraterrestrials, UFOs and Ghostly Apparitions) the book succeeds in at least laying more ground work for others to work with.

The central portion of the book is a series of case studies of fifty (50) representative mystery primates. These are grouped by geographical area (North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania) and include specific reports of mystery primates from these areas, as well as a demonstration of the characteristics described to each of the nine classes of the system. Each case study is then adjacent to an illustration by Harry Trumbore (who is also the illustrator for the other books in the *Field Guide* series) that shows a height scale and physical characteristics of the case study. A representative of this illustration is given on the next page.

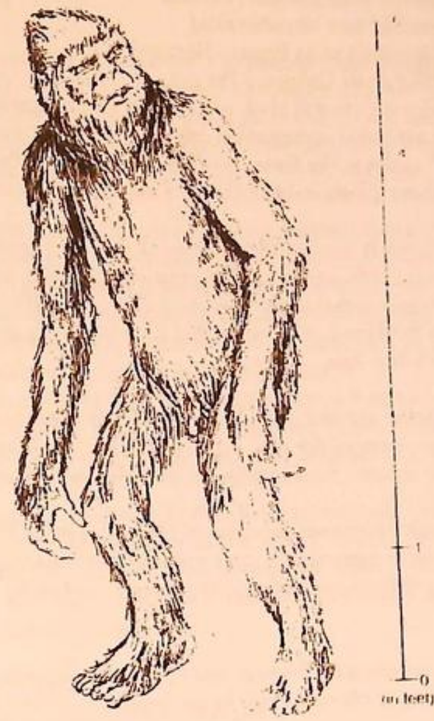


Image of Harry Trumbore's illustration of an Alma from page 121. The illustration corresponds to an entry about the 1963 report in the Altai Mountains of Mongolia by Ivan Ivlov. The Alma has been classified in the book as an Erectus Hominid. — ***Used with permission of Loren Coleman.***

These images of Trumbore are a nice addition to the book, and allow a visual imprint of the creatures being evaluated. Even going to the point of showing biological correlations to the reports, as in the case of drawings of the Erectus Hominid classes where a partially erect penis is added (examples are the Minnesota Iceman, the Kaptar, and the Alma shown above). Other cases that have reports of clothing or hand tool usage are depicted in the illustrations as well (examples are the Chuchunaa, the Nuk-luk, and the Tjangaro).

Perhaps the most important item in the book doesn't even fall into the classification system, or even the case studies. It is an elongated afterward that touches on scientific study of these creatures, hoaxes, cultural impressions and a best bets. These best bets are the most likely candidates for undeniable scientific discovery in the next century, a top 8 list if you will:

1) Oran-pendek, classified as a Proto-Pygmie
2) Bigfoot or Sasquatch, classified as a Neo-Giant
3) Nguoi-rung, classified as an Erectus Hominid
4) Yeren, classified as an Unknown Pongid
5) Alma, classified as an Erectus Hominid
6) Kaptar, classified as a Neandertaloid
7) Barmanu, classified as an Erectus Hominid
8) Yeti, classified as an Unknown Pongid

The other nice plus to this book is a complete bibliography as well a resource list. But, even on the list there are some questionable entries such as Christopher Murphy, now infamous for the recent "bell" claim in the Patterson-Gimlin film. Given the time frame for publication of the book, some of these questionable inclusions may have seemed quite reasonable at the time.

Overall the book is worthwhile. As a quick reference guide if for no other. There are some weak areas wherein little supporting information is given to establish a classification. Again, the most quarrelsome is that of the Merbeing class. Even allowing for some mythological inclusions in the field guide the overall feel for this class is one of spice. A case in point would be that of Steller's Sea Ape:

"What did Steller see that day? He was certainly too exacting a naturalist to have misidentified a sea otter or fur seal, especially at such close range. It could then - just possibly - have been some aquatic form of primate, as the name he bestowed upon it implies."

Wherein the description of the class of Merbeings deals mainly with a sub-class of freshwater Merbeings instead of a more even split with marine Merbeings (as Steller's Sea Ape is classified). The following characteristics are assigned to the marine Merbeings within the book:

"The marine subclass is distinguished by a finlike appendage, while the other, mostly freshwater, subclass is characterized by an angular foot with a high instep and three pointed toes."

"The marine variety has very smooth skin, sometimes with a very short "fur," while the freshwater variety occasionally has patchy hair growths that appear "like leaves" or "scaly."

But lacking is a defense as to why Steller's Sea Ape is a mystery primate. There is little evidence given in the book for its inclusion as a Merbeing, except in the superficial meeting of *"a finlike appendage"* and *"very short "fur"*.

Looking beyond these questionable entries and lack of complete comparisons of case studies to classification groupings, one can still appreciate the book for its reevaluation of the myriad of mystery creatures akin to humanoids and primates from across the globe. The book doesn't answer everything, and it does not include all entries from throughout the world (examples of some missing entries are the Tokoloshe from Africa and Moehau from New Zealand). This is not necessarily the fault of the authors, rather a quirk of writing within a defined parameter and to a wider general audience of readers. Readers who may not be familiar with different reports from around the world. And in that vain Coleman and Huyghe have succeeded in offering the general reader, as well as interested readers, a start to rethinking of certain areas and certain views.

"There are some fifty individual mystery primates portrayed in our field guide, but some were last seen centuries ago and their descendants in those places probably no longer exist today. No Proto-Pygmies, True Giants, or Marked Hominids are likely to still be stalking the wilds of Europe, for example. Reports of these creatures are old tales, ancient sightings, and archetypal memories of the days when they were more numerous in Europe"

Unexplained! 2nd Edition
Author: Jerome Clark
ISBN 1-57859-070-1
Visible Ink Press, 1999, 636 Pages
Available at www.amazon.com

This book in reality is an updated second edition to Jerome Clark's Unexplained from 1993 (Visible Ink Press, Detroit). The first version was 443 pages, so at 636 pages there is more content in the updated version. Additionally, the organization of the information is much better in the new version with main groupings of phenomenon, instead of a straight alphabetical listing. For instance the cryptozoology section covers pages 211 through 388, plus scatterings from page 389 on.

Although more of a fortean book, in that various other enigmas like airships, anomalous rains, Earth lights, and flying humanoids, the sections and entries on cryptozoology are updated and interesting. Some examples of these entries are the Beast of Exmoor, the Kraken, living dinosaurs, mono grande, and the tatzelwurm. Also included are brief biographies throughout the book on both persons and organizations, included there are ones such as A.C. Oudemans, Loren Coleman, Rupert T. Gould, and Frederick William Holiday.

Each section dealing with a cryptid has a list of sources as well as a large end section of the book called Phenomenal Resources. In this section web sites, books, periodicals, and organizations are listed for a full range of phenomenon. Also included is a quick index at the end of the book.

Overall the book, although not a completely detailed accounting of the various cryptids, gives a reader a quick recounting of the vital information as well as continued sources to follow up on. The reorganization makes the book more user friendly for quick details. This update is in actually a nice compilation of well-researched entries that would fit nicely with most people libraries along side other anomaly collections.

The Great Alaskan Dinosaur Adventure
Author: Buddy Davis, Mike Liston, John Whitmore
ISBN 0-89051-232-9
Master Books, 1998, 137 Pages
Available through the Paradise Gardens bookstore at
http://christiananswers.net/cgi-bin/html_web_store.cgi and at www.amazon.com

Essentially this short book is a travelogue of a group of five men, Mike Liston, Buddy Davis, Dan Specht, George Detwiler, and John Whitmore, who through private funding and from the Creation Research Science Education Foundation, searched Alaska for unfossilized dinosaur bones.

The book is creationist bound, but one does not need to be a creationist to view the book as a log of an adventure to the North Slope of Alaska and the Liscomb Bone Bed. The book is adapted from a journal by John Whitmore, who kept the entries going during the 1994 trip. At the heart of their search the men are looking for dinosaur bones, that have not become fossilized and that may be evidence for the Great Flood from the Bible. But beyond that the story is about the courage of these men to risk their lives in the desolate regions of Alaska for ten odd days. Through storms and poor leaky rafts, to quicksand and mosquitoes.

Yes, the men did find some dinosaur bones. Are the proof that the dinosaurs died recently and that their unfossilized bones are proof of a Great Flood? That is up to the reader to decide. The bones are not proven anyplace through analysis that they are anything but fossils. And, although interesting geologic occurrences are noted, there is no concrete proof of a Great Flood then men where searching for. In essence, the men found some of what they searched for, but laboratory work is needed to conclusively prove anything.

All in all the book should be treated as a travel book, of a wild and untamed wilderness where one can still find adventure.

Classifieds & Miscellany

Your request for information and materials may be printed for free. Submit any requests to the editor along with address and e-mail. If you do not wish to have your address printed, the editor will with hold it and requests will be handled through the editor. A fee will be charged for commercial listings within the classifieds, however any organization or similar themed publication will be listed free of charge. Contact the editor for specifics regarding commercial and/or organizations and publications listings.

Wanted:	**Wanted:**	**Wanted:**
More than a Myth: The Search for the Monster of Muskrat Lake by Michael Bradley (Hounslow Press, Willowdale (ON, Canada), 1989 Gary Campbell 9 Burn Brae Place Inverness, Scotland IV2 5TA NESSIE5@aol.com	Champ: Beyond the Legend: Updated Edition by Joseph Zarzynski (M-Z Information, Wilton (NY, USA), 1988 Gary Campbell 9 Burn Brae Place Inverness, Scotland IV2 5TA NESSIE5@aol.com	Any English fictional novel or short story having a cryptozoological theme. Children's literature, juvenile literature or adult literature. Craig Heinselman 135 Elm St, Apt. 81 Milford, NH USA 03055 cheinselman@msn.com

Corrections:

In last issues article on the South Island Kokako various photographs were utilized in showing the avian fauna of New Zealand. These images where used under the provisions of USC Title 17 § 107.

Special Thanks:

Special thanks go out to those who have sent in letters and e-mails regarding this publication. Your thoughts and comments are greatly appreciated. Among those who have in some way aided in helping to make *Crypto* possible are Earl Snellenberger, Peter V. O'Shea, Aus Sheatsley, Loren Coleman, John Kirk, Karl Shuker, Allan Edward Munro, and many others. But, most of all a special thanks goes to my wife Angel Heinselman for her understanding and patience in this endeavor.

The next edition of Crypto will be out in July of 1999.

If you wish to submit an article or other item for publication, contact the editor for guidelines:

Crypto
c/o Craig Heinselman
135 Elm St. , Apt. 81
Milford, NH USA 03055
(603) 673-1462
cheinselman@msn.com